

GERALD LYNN COUNTS

1924-2014

BRIDGEPORT: Gerald Lynn Counts died April 30, 2014 in Bridgeport.

Gerald was born April 13, 1924 in Wise County, Texas. His parents, Lawrence Earl and Mattie Lorene were farmers, and during the "Great Depression", they did not suffer from hunger. Gerald was the oldest of three children. He graduated from the High School in Perrin, Texas and then enrolled in Texas A&M University.

Shortly afterward he withdrew and joined the Army. He was in the 1st Division, 506 Regiment, C Company, 101st Airborne. He jumped in Normandy, Holland, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. On December 20, 1944, the Germans launched an attack that led to the capture of the Medical Company, all of the surgical teams, as well as all of the wounded. The Medical Company was located in Western Bastogne.

Gerald Counts was among those who were captured. He was a prisoner with about 1200 other prisoners in the barracks at Limburg. He was held prisoner for around 6 months. Gerald Counts does not have the uniform he wore during the war because it was burned in Belgium when he was released by the British. He still had his many decorations. Gerald was awarded two Bronze Stars (one for his jump into Normandy and one for his jump into Holland), a Purple Heart, a Presidential Unit Citation, The Good Conduct Medal and The Medal for Prisoners of War and his various campaign medals.

Gerald lived a full and enjoyable life on his own terms. He was a Highway Patrolman in El Paso, a chef, worked for the railroad and worked at LockHeed Martin. He also had an entrepreneurial spirit. He owned grocery stores and other businesses.

Gerald leaves behind daughters: Donny and husband, Tom Gillum; Carolyn and husband, Ted Gillum; grandchildren: Brent Gillum and wife, Amanda and Heather Garner and husband, Kyle; great grandchildren: Caitlin, Cassidy, Braedan, Gabby, Tyson, Matt, Grant, Jax, Jace and Ellison; sister, Joy Counts and brother, Pat Garner and wife, LaRue, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Gerald was preceded in death by his wife, Marueen Counts, parents and a granddaughter, Renee Gillum.

The funeral service was held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at the funeral home with burial following at Perrin Memorial Cemetery.

*Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner Funeral Home
302 West Hubbard • Mineral Wells, TX.*